

AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended.) A method for on-demand use of preselected content by a recipient, comprising the steps of:

utilizing the excess capacity of a network by conveying data over said network during a period of less than maximum usage;

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said data including a plurality of different on-demand programming which may be viewed at said recipient's convenience;

receiving said data during said period of less than maximum usage;

accumulating said data over an extended period of time;

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selectively retrieving ~~said data~~ one or more of said plurality of different on-demand programming by said recipient for on-demand use at a time after said extended period of time.

2. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said network includes a satellite.
3. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said satellite operates in low Earth orbit.
4. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said satellite operates in medium Earth orbit.
5. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said satellite operates in high Earth orbit.
6. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said satellite operates in geosynchronous Earth orbit.
7. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said satellite operates in low Earth orbit.

8. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said network includes a sub-orbital platform.

9. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said network includes a terrestrial wired network.

10. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 2, in which said network includes a terrestrial wireless network.

11. (Currently amended.) An apparatus comprising:

a gateway means for transmitting a plurality of digitized packets of data;

a relay means for receiving said plurality of digitized packets of data from
said gateway means and for retransmitting during a time period when the
total communications capacity of said relay means is not fully used;

a receiver means for collecting said plurality of digitized packets of data
which are transmitted from said gateway means;

said receiver means including a storage means for accumulating said
plurality of digitized packets of data incrementally over an extended period
of time; and

means for selectively retrieving and using one or more of said plurality of
digitized packets of data after a generally full program has been
accumulated[[]]

said plurality of digitized packets of data provides a plurality of different
on-demand programming which may be viewed at said recipient's
convenience.

12. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is shielded to eliminate local radio frequency transmissions that could be used to make an unauthorized copy.

13. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is tamper-proofed to thwart unauthorized copying.

14. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said relay means includes a satellite.

15. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said relay means includes a sub-orbital platform.

16. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said relay means includes a wired terrestrial network.

17. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said relay means includes a wireless terrestrial network.

18. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located on the Earth's surface.

19. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located above the Earth's surface.

20. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located in a fixed terminal.

21. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located in a portable terminal.

22. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located in a mobile terminal.

23. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located in a sub-orbital platform.

24. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, in which said receiver means is located in a satellite in orbit.

25. (Previously presented.) A method as recited in Claim 1, in which the step of utilizing the excess capacity of a network by conveying data over said network includes conveying said data from a satellite, said method further including the step of:

prior to conveying said data over said network, transmitting said data from a terrestrial station to said satellite over said network during a period of less than maximum usage of said network.

26. (Previously presented.) An apparatus as recited in Claim 11, in which said digitized packets of data are transmitted from said gateway means to said relay means during a time when the total communications capacity of said gateway means is not fully used.